

**Remarks:**

This application has been reviewed carefully in view of the Office Action mailed January 13, 2005 ("the Office Action"). In the Office Action, claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention. 5 Claims 1-10 and 21 were rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), over Japanese Laid-open No. Hei 3-85886, English translation ("Hei 3-85886"), in view of JP 2000025869 (Derwent Abstract) and further in view of Japanese Patent Application 10 Laid-open No. Hei 9-86569, English translation ("Hei 9-86569").

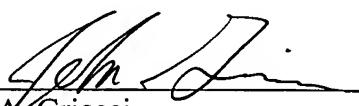
Applicants note with appreciation that claims 11 and 13-20 were acknowledged to be allowable over the references of record.

15 In view of the foregoing, the applicants cancel claims 1-10, without prejudice. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this application for pending allowable claims 11 and 13-20.

20 Respectfully submitted,

SHIBATA et al.

25 By:

  
John A. Griecci

Registration No. 39,694

For: The Law Office of John A. Griecci

30 703 Pier Avenue, Suite B #657  
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254  
(310) 376-6527